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"Bees of 133" lend a hand

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Private Mike Schwichtenberg guides sand bags into place on a HEMTT to be taken to Camp Ugljevik. (Photo by Sergeant Gary Hicks, see page 3).

The Task Force Eagle Web site is located at www.tfeagle.army.mil

The Task Force Eagle web site offers breaking news and photos on its web site. The Web site provides information concerning the Turk, Russian, and NORDPOL Brigade assigned to Task Force Eagle, as well as U.S. soldiers stationed in Bosnia. The Talon On-line is updated every Saturday.

By Command Sergeant Major Carl E. Christian Task Force Eagle CSM

As we continue to deploy from the Balkans we need to realize that a smooth transition is essential to getting back into the "scheme of things." It is going to be increasingly impor-

tant to adapt to or resolve changes that occurred with our family and friends while we were away. The **USAREUR** and 7th Army Personal Redeployment Readiness Guide lists ten areas of our life which change affects the most: Personal Relationships, Eating Habits,

Family Rules, Routines, Attitudes, Loyalties, Children, Feelings, Friends, and People.

When deployed, many changes occur during that period that are in contrast to the life back home. Married soldiers, as well as single, must go through the process of reestablishing previous relational conditions. In addition to this, when resuming household business, consider that different routines, rules, and procedures may be in place contrary to how things were before you deployed. You may find these changes favorable, or you may want to reconcile them. The intent here is, do not expect things to change overnight and to automatically revert to the way things were.

Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers must contend with adapting to changes that occurred at their place of employment while they were away. Active duty have a similar situation with their change of duty station.

There are available resources to help you with your transition such as family support programs, chaplain services, counseling services and friends or family. Deployments have a considerable impact on soldiers and the key factor is that you and others will have the support of others and remember,... "TODAY IS THE BEST DAY TO BE A SOLDIER."

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Transfer of authority at Hill 562

Story and photo by Sergeant Gary Hicks 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

ince the arrival of Task Force, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment (Task Force 2-6) to Bosnia-Herzegovina, platoons from Bravo Company have rotated to Hill 562 every 30 days to help control a remote and isolated television transmission tower in the Republika Srpska (RS).

However, beginning on June 1, the hill and the responsibility of control will be turned over to the RS. Specialist Alejandro Navarro said, "I think it's good that we're turning the hill over. It shows cooperation."

On October 1, 1997, Stabilization Force (SFOR) assumed control of the Udrigovo radio/television tower (Hill 562) at the

"I think it's good that we're turning the hill over. It shows cooperation."

Specialist Alejandro Navarro



Private First Class Nathaniel Harris removes a tent canvas in preparation for the turn over of Hill 562 to the RS.

request of the Office of the High Representative (OHR).

The intent of the mission was to allow the RS and Bosnia-Herzegovina equal access of the Radio Televisija (SRT) broadcasting tower.

According to First Lieutenant David Creasman, the executive officer, a Savannah, Ga., native, their unit took control of Hill 562 from Delta Company 1st Battalion 36th Infantry Regiment which originally had occupied Hill 562.

SRT and OHR have reached a signed agreement, and the transmission tower is in the process of being turned over to SRT. SRT has displayed capabilities of securing and maintaining the tower. They are now broadcasting in compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP).

SFOR will continue to monitor SRT for broadcasting compliance as well as continue routine patrols and inspections of the tower.

The soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Company B, are removing concertina wire, sandbags, tents and packing all their equipment in preparation for their return to their base camp on May 31, when the turnover takes place.

The hours have been long and lonely at times. The soldiers have enjoyed the quietness of isolated beauty and glorious sunsets. They will miss many things about this duty station, but at the same time, it will be good to be back.

Navarro, a Sunnyside, Wa., native said, "I think things will be okay. I don't think we'll be back here."

With their successful mission at Hill 562 completed, Task Force 2-6 will continue their path of excellence wherever their next assignment takes them.

Understanding General Order #1

Story and photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The mission was a success. U.S. Forces, along with members from other nations, worked hard together and now want to retreat to a local restaurant for dinner and drinks. While waiting for the entree and watching the playoffs on TV, the group begins a rowdy rivalry about which team will win. As the beer arrives, Sergeant Sam Snuffy bets twenty dollars on a team to win. At the same time, Second Lieutenant Dudley Dooright wants to exchange currency for the war memento found by Snuffy.

This hypothetical story and the fabricated incidents are to demonstrate violations to General Order Number 1.

"What is General Order Number 1?" According to Eagle Base Command Sergeant Major William J. Gainey, General Order

Number 1 is a set of ground rules governing the "do's and don'ts" while performing the mission at hand. "The General Order Number 1 acts as a safety control mechanism for both the soldiers and the local nationals," said Gainey, 41, from Hartsville, S.C.

Developed because of the intense environment during Implementation Force (IFOR), the policy has changed slightly to include a few specific exceptions. Otherwise, it has continued to play an essential role in the security, health and welfare of the U.S. forces and remains a stronghold to improve U.S. relations with the host nation.

"I do not see the policy changing until the command feels confident the environment is safe and soldiers will not get hurt," Gainey said.

General Order Number 1 applies to all U.S. personnel within Multinational Division North and Sarajevo. Under the order, you may not do any of the following activities:

- Possess or consume alcoholic beverages at any time or for any reason.
- Possess any weapon or military article that was captured during military operations.
- Touch any ordnance without legal authority.
- Possess or use privately owned firearms, ammunition, or explosives.
- · Gamble in any form.
- Sell or exchange any currency other than at the official exchange rate.
- Sell, give or transfer goods purchased at the PX to a person not authorized PX privileges.
- Allow someone else to use your SFOR ration card.
- Enter any mosque or other Islamic religious site.
- · Remove, possess, or deface archeological artifacts or national treasures.
- Dine in local eating establishments not located on Multinational Division North base camps.

"These are eleven acts of conduct," Gainey said. Service members must take these eleven principles seriously because they are subject to administrative actions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Civilians accompanying U.S. Forces may face similar adverse administrative action. Disciplinary actions can range from chapter proceedings to an Article 15, and even up to a court martial.

"Basically, it's a matter of doing the right thing," Gainey expressed, "starting with leadership, NCOs and senior NCOs need to educate and train soldiers properly".

The "Three Minute Reader" issued by the Inspector General's Office states that violations are subject to the UCMJ. This order may be subject to Article 92, violation of a lawful order.

Following General Order Number 1 will insure the interest and safety of all soldiers.



Possessing or attempting to mail any ordnances are violations of General Order Number 1.

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Mine awareness taken to classrooms

Story and photo by Sergeant Oreta M. Spencer 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

be out. With land mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) lurking throughout the countryside – a seemingly safe place for children to play could potentially result in serious injuries, or even death.

Three different units from Camp Dobol have taken it upon themselves to do something to prevent such an incident taking place, in this country that has its fair share of land mines.

The 418th Civil Affairs from Kansas City, Mo., 84th Engineer Company from Fort Polk, La., and the 703rd Ordnance Company, Explosive Ordnance Division (EOD) from Fort Knox, Ky., are teaming together in a joint effort to visit local schools and give mine awareness classes to the children.

According to Second Lieutenant Ken Zurcher, 23, of Lenexa, Kan., information and awareness are the keys to ensure the children have a safe summer.

"The vegetation has grown up more and the children don't have the visibility to see if they are in a place they shouldn't be."

Staff Sergeant Fred Stephens



Staff Sergeant Stephens shows the group of children at a local school some of the UXOs they may find around the area and explains the dangers of each one.

This decision came after responding to several mine pickups and an accident where a small child dropped a rifle grenade, injuring several children and an adult. "We decided to be proactive in increasing the awareness and the dangers of UXOs," explained Zurcher, a member of the 418th Civil Affairs from Kansas City, Mo.

The team wants to spread the message to as many schools as possible, but for now, they selected schools near highly populated resettlement areas. "We are concentrating particularly in schools and villages where resettlement is going to be high," continued Zurcher.

Staff Sergeant Fred Stephens, a member of the 703rd Ordnance Company EOD from Fort Knox, Ky., explains, "We are giving these classes to raise the awareness that UXOs are still here even if you can't see them."

Stephens, a 26 year old native of Jacksonville, S.C., continued, "The vegetation has grown up more and the children don't have the visibility to see if they are in a place they shouldn't be."

"Hopefully these classes will keep them from wandering off into fields and abandoned houses," noted Stephens.

The classes stress to the children that if they come across an ordnance — not to play with it, touch it, or move it around. "They also need to mark the area and inform an adult as soon as possible," Stephens stated.

"We want to get most of the schools before they let out for the summer and hopefully by then we will have developed classes for the adults also," concluded Zurcher.

Armed with a raised awareness of the dangers still around the area, the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina will have a safe summer thanks to the efforts of Civil Affairs, EOD and the Engineers stationed at Camp Dobol.

Mechanic's invention adds to th

Story and photos by Corporal James E. Baker 345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Invent a better mousetrap and the world will lead a path to your door, so the saying goes. Often times, in ventions derive from the simplest ideas that others overlook. Colombian born, Private First Class Edwin Cifuentes, 22, of New York City, is the inventor of an oil pan for a 3,000-kilowatt generator. As the lone welder at Camp McGovern, Cifuentes does welding with the Headquarters and Headquarters Team of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment Maintenance (HHT, 3/2 ACR).

Oil flows freely from a 3,000 kilowatt generator without the benefit of a drip pan that Private First Class Edwin Cifuentes, has invented to eliminate spillage and the need to clean excess oil after repair jobs.

A fellow soldier and generator mechanic, Private Robert MacLean, 19, of Groton, N.Y., came to Cifuentes after he had encountered difficulties in draining oil from a 3,000-kilowatt generator. Once the bolt was removed to release the oil into a drip pan, the oil would haphazardly spill onto the ground and cause additional work for the mechanic.

"Initially, MacLean had asked me to make some steps to put under the generator. But then, I stepped back and thought of a more efficient way to release the oil without creating unnecessary spillage on the ground," said Cifuentes.

Cifuentes' invention required about 3 hours from the time he was presented with the idea, until it was completed. He cut and welded scrap metal, one-eighth inch thick steel to use for the project.

The 3/2 ACR generator mechanics have been using Cifuentes' device ever since. Cifuentes named the oil



Generator mechanic, Private First Class Edwir that has his invention that he welded and oil spillage.

e protection of the environment

pan, a "C Boat." Cifuentes said, "I gave it this name because "C" is the first letter of my last name and the device looks like a small boat."

Preventive Maintenance Monthly has expressed an interest in giving the "C Boat" recognition in its "Master Sergeant Half-Mast" column that focuses on innovative maintenance ideas and tools that can make military maintenance more efficient.

Cifuentes submitted a description of his invention and received a reply asking for additional information on the device. Specifically, the columnist asked Cifuentes to provide a step-by-step approach to making the drip pan and how to use it. In addition to the information, Cifuentes added, "I am providing photos of the drip pan. Also, I am going to answer some basic questions".

The young welder will provide an explanation that will indicate where the drip pan fits into the

generator, what the purpose of the tube is and where it drains. He will also address that leaking oil is a big problem with the 3,000 kilowatt generator.

Cifuentes' chain of command is going to submit the "C Boat" idea to the Army Suggestion Program that recognizes soldiers for their contributions to save the Army time and money by their suggestions.

"This device is 100% effective because it eliminates the need for dry sweep. There are no oil spills and that saves the mechanic time on a job," points out Cifuentes.

Cifuentes, an Army soldier making a difference in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Cifuentes kneels by a 3,000 kilowatt generator installed under the drainage plug to collect



The "C Boat," an invention of Private First Class Edwin Cifuentes catches the oil and directs the flow to a container for proper disposal.

Seabees helping the less fortunate

Story and photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class (NAC) Tammy Trefts Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133

espite the multitude of tasks set forth for Seabees at Camp Dobol, a small group found the time to help others recently. Member of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-133 (NMCB-133), from Gulfport, Miss., made time to help out those less fortunate between road repairs, repairing bridges, and the numerous other jobs that occupy the unit's time in the war-ravaged Tuzla Valley.

When the "Kangroos" of NMCB-133 found out that the Visca Refuge, a widows and orphans home, was only a few miles from Camp Bedrock, they could hardly wait to ask permission to put their construction talents to work.

With their interpreter, a few hand tools and whatever pieces of scrap lumber that could be rounded up, 22 Seabees loaded vehicles and convoyed down the road to make some repairs to the refuge home. The Visca Refuge houses 38 people, 23 of them children.

The "Bees of 133" jumped in feet first and tackled the tasks of pulling a trash dumpster up a hillside that it had slid down. The next project was repairing a water heater and restringing a clothesline. When asked why he volunteered to help, Builder

Constructionman (BUCN) Terry J. Hoyt 23, of Elgin, Okla., answered, "That's what we're here for. That's what we (the Seabees) do. I like helping out and putting our skills to use." Hoyt expressed the constructive use of time for helping others less fortunate and establishing goodwill with the community.

After spending some time playing with the children, the Seabees went back to work. They repaired the basketball backboard, made a sandbox and constructed a makeshift fence to protect the children from a 25-foot drop, at the back of the property.

The Seabees worked and played diligently for ten hours before reluctantly heading back to camp.

Builder First Class (BUCN1) Seabee Combat Warfare specialist (SCW) Gary W. Mosher 34, of Gulfport, Miss., expressed the importance of the Seabee volunteer work at the orphanage. "These orphans are the ones hit hardest by the war. They were not directly involved, but they are the ones suffering. If we can show these kids that someone cares about them, they could change the future of this country."

Mosher, a Seabee veteran, went on to say, "Although we're limited to the amount of work we can provide, we know that the small amount of work that we do has influenced them as much as it has us."



Construction Electrician Jon Keck puts the finishing touches on a water heater at the Visca Refuge, a local shelter for widows and orphans. The "Bees of 133" are making an impact in the community.

NORDPOL commemorates fallen soldiers of all nations

Story and photo by Sergeant First Class Sherry L. Claus 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

fine mist filled the air as the unit marched into position on the asphalt court. The three members of the Color Guard proceeded sharply to the flag pole and took their proper places. The NCOIC gave the near-silent commands as the flag was hooked to the lanyards. As the flag began its ascent, the Officer in Charge of the U.S. formation barked out the command "Present Arms." Crisp salutes were

executed by the American soldiers. The blue and white colors of NATO rose rapidly skyward and then lowered again slowly to half-mast. "Order Arms" was quickly followed by the snapping of hands against starched BDUs as the ceremony drew to a close.

This scene was reenacted a total of nine times on this Memorial Day morning at the NORDPOL Brigade Headquarters. Flags from all countries represented on this post were raised during a simple, but moving ceremony spearheaded by the United States military forces stationed there.

Major Troy Stephenson, the 34-year-old Liaison Officer at NORDPOL, was one of the moving forces behind the flag ceremony.

"The NORDPOL Brigade staff was expecting us to do a Memorial Day celebration and as Americans here, we real-

ized that the nations at this brigade had a misunderstanding of what Memorial Day is," explained Stephenson. "It is not a day of celebration – it is a day of commemoration."

Stephenson, a Trail, Oregon native, came up with an idea that would allow U.S. forces to celebrate Memorial Day and at the same time give a better understanding to the other nations of what the holiday is actually about.

"What we did was modify our ceremony to include and commemorate the fallen soldiers of all nations represented at NORDPOL," said Stephenson.

The flag ceremony drew quite an international crowd armed with video and still cameras with which to record this historic

event. Sergeant First Class Henrik Hvidtfeldt, a 33-year-old member of the Danish Army working in the G3 section (operations and training) was intrigued with the United States Memorial Day activities.

"I think the way they put the flags up and the entire ceremony was very nice," said the Skive, a Denmark native. "We don't have similar ceremonies or holidays for remembering fallen soldiers in our country."

There were several questions directed to American soldiers from the other nationalities regarding the concept of



The table in the dining facility at NORDPOL Brigade Headquarters, Doboj, honoring fallen soldiers from each of the nine countries represented at the camp.

Memorial Day

Many foreign soldiers wondered why the flags were at half mast. Once explained that this was done to mourn the deceased military members; they thought it was very appropriate.

Later that day, the Americans once again formed up on the asphalt for the retreat ceremony. As the last flag – the U.S. colors – was solemnly folded, a lone soldier stood off to the side, raised his bugle and sounded taps. As the mournful sounds echoed through the air, all those present paused to show their respect to their fallen comrades.

Congressional delegates visit TFE troops

Story and photos by Corporal James E. Baker 345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

peaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) were among a congressional delegation (CODEL) that toured Camp McGovern, Brcko and the Stari Rasadnik and Rijeka resettlement areas on May 31. Their purpose was to see, first hand, the role U.S troops are playing in the Operation Joint Guard mission.

Other legislators in the delegation included Representative Henry Waxman (D-Calif.); Representative Robert Livingston (R-La.), Representative Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Representative Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.); Representative John Linder (R-Ga.) and Representative Kay Granger (R-Texas).

Gingrich asserted that the effectiveness of U.S. troops has been exceptional because of the impact they have had in stabilizing this area in a volatile land.

"The American troops have done amazingly well given the violence and destruction that preceded their coming to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their presence has made it possible for our allies to assist in this peacemaking effort," Gingrich said.

The CODEL toured Camp McGovern, the nearest base camp to Brcko. McGovern is also located near the zone of separation (ZOS) communities that are being rebuilt and rehabilitated and are serving as the building blocks for the evolving peace within this war-torn country.

The CODEL viewed the living conditions of the troops, as well as sampling the troops' food at the dining facility, before going to Stari Rasadnik, a resettlement area that has both Bosnian and Serbian citizens.

Gingrich and the CODEL was escorted through the community on a gravel road to visit with residents and to get their opinion of how well the stabilization effort is proceeding. At several homes, little children and their parents met the Speaker with looks of curiosity and appreciation.

The seasoned politician arose above partisan politics to acknowledge that strides have been made through the erstwhile effort of all parties concerned.

"I am aware of the great job our young men and women are doing to assure peace for all the people in the region. And, I think that the way we are working with other countries so that we are here as part of a team, is something that every American can be proud of," he said.

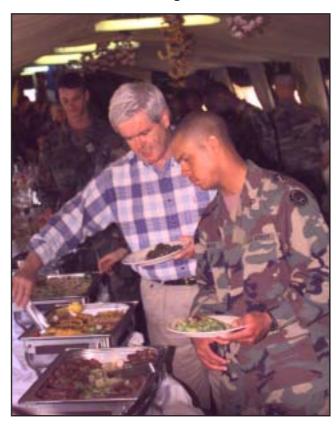
Gingrich stressed that it will take time for peace to become firmly established because the foundation is still under construction.

"The local people, frankly, I think, have to be deeply involved themselves in making the practical decisions in focusing on peacetime building of prosperity, rebuilding from war damage and finding a way to solve the political problems without violence. It will take some time for the institutions of prosperity to be created," Gingrich said.

The tremendous efforts and hard work by troops in Bosnia, witnessed firsthand by the congressional delegation, should go a long way in strengthening Congress' support of those serving in Operation Joint Guard.



Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, (R-Ga), speaks to a child during a walking tour of the resettlement area. Interpreter, Stanka Peric, is to his immediate right.



Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, (R-Ga), helps himself to a lunch as Private First Class Willie Smith proceeds in front of him.

Medical team keeping soldiers healthy

Story and photos by First Lieutenant Annmarie Daneker 196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

n apple a day keeps the doctor away is an age-old saying some people follow to stay healthy. But a deployment to Bosnia can mean possible exposure to health threats that a soldier has no control over. That's where Preventive Medicine at Guardian Base takes over to help soldiers avoid illness while they are deployed.

"The U.S. mission to Bosnia is one of the healthiest deployments ever recorded," said Major Richard J. Maguire, Chief of Preventive Medicine, Task Force Eagle. The instances of diseases or illness are low mainly because of the steps taken to monitor the air, food, water, and rodent populations of all the base and hilltop camps here by Preventive Medicine.

The Preventive Medicine tent is staffed with several Environmental Health Technicians who focus on measures to keep soldiers healthy. The personnel travel to the base camps for unannounced inspections called, Base Camp Assessment Teams (BCAT). If deficiencies are found, such as trash in the billeting areas or sanitation problems in the Dining Facility (DFAC), then the command is notified and Brown & Root is contacted to find solutions.

Another task of the technicians is to take samples and send them to an Army lab in Germany for analysis. "The air in Bosnia is relatively clean and contains about as much pollution as a "mid-sized U.S. industrial city," stated Maguire.

"There are two air samplers at Guardian Base and two at Eagle base," informed Private First Class Jennifer R. Marois, Task Force Med Eagle, and Melbourne, Fla., native. The filters are changed and analyzed every three days at Guardian and every five days at Eagle Base.

Insects, snakes and rodents may be fascinating to some soldiers, but they are also major carriers of diseases, including Hantavirus, an illness which could eventually lead to kidney failure, if untreated.

"Avoidance is the best way to avoid snakebites," said Sergeant First Class Jeff Tolle, Task Force Med Eagle. Tolle, from Lake Quinault, Wash., also cautions soldiers to stay away from rats and mice as well as insects and stray animals. "If you see them, move away and leave them alone," cautions Tolle.

Other measures soldiers can take to avoid illness are the use of insect repellent on the skin and clothes, shaking out boots and bedding before use, consuming food and water only from approved sources and thoroughly washing hands before eating.

The staff at preventive medicine offers five-day classes in field sanitation once a month at different base camps. Information or scheduling of classes can be done through the Mayor's office.

While staying healthy during deployment may require more sophisticated measures than an apple a day, Maguire believes steps taken by the preventive medicine staff and individual soldiers are responsible for the mission's overall excellent health record. "Infectious diseases are not a major threat, but they are out there and we have the means to prevent them," said Maguire.

If an apple a day won't keep the doctor away, Preventative Medicine Technicians are definitely doing their part in keeping Task Force Eagle Base soldiers healthy.



Private First Class Jennifer R. Marois, Task Force Med Eagle, replaces an air sampler at Guardian Base after removing the filters for analysis.



Private First Class Jennifer R. Marois, Task Force Med Eagle, removes a filter from an air sampler at Guardian Base that will be sent to Germany for analysis.

Mechanic keeps HMMWVs humming



Story and photo by Sergeant Gary Hicks
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

ne of the most significant tools needed to accomplish the Stabilization Force (SFOR) mission in this war-torn region is the HMMWV (Humvee). Commanders and soldiers alike rely on this important instrument, not only for transportation, but also for force protection.

Due to the poor road conditions and constant usage in Bosnia-Herzegovina, maintenance is vital for a successful mission and paramount for the safety of soldiers.

Mechanics of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment (HHC 2-6) labor hard to insure safety and 100 percent mission capability for all their vehicles at Camp Bedrock.

"Performing our PSYOPS mission, we rack up a lot of miles and quite a bit of wear and tear," explains Sergeant James Gray, from Caseyville, Ill., a member of the 307th Psychological Operations, referred to as the "Wolf Pack." Gray said, "The Wolf Pack mechanics are professionals and they do an outstanding job of keeping us mission ready."

When HHC 2-6 first arrived in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the maintenance team recognized a need to change their

normal standard operating procedures (SOP) that they had followed at home station. Conditions here called for different maintenance measures.

"We found what a harsh environment Bosnia was for the trucks and modified the maintenance procedures that the outgoing unit was using to better maintain our equipment," said Sergeant First Class James Cutlip, 34, from Youngston, Ohio, the HHC 2-6 maintenance team chief.

One of the first changes made was to line up all vehicles in front of a maintenance tent every Friday morning. The vehicles are then thoroughly inspected and if repairs are needed, mechanics will work on them before they can be dispatched.

"We do a thorough inspection of the vehicles to ensure they are road ready before dispatching them for use," explains Private Travis L. Beasley, 24, from Wellington, Kan., a member of the Wolf Pack team. "Mainly we check for things above the operator level such as, wheel bearings and steering components, but also ensure that the operators have done their part as well."

Through teamwork and dedication, mechanics and operators strive to maintain one of the most important tools necessary to maintain safety and contributing their part in supporting the peacekeeping mission here in Bosnia-Herzegovina.